6. *Role of Voluntary Coordinating Agencies :*

A time period of 60 days instead of 30 days shall be given to V.C.A. for putting their best efforts to place the child within the country and in case they fail they shall issue necessary clearance certificate to the placement agencies within a maximum period of 60 days.

7. *Role of Scrutinising Agencies :*

The Court may appoint any agency, being a body of experts in the field of child care and welfare not in itself involved in any manner in the placement of children in adoption as a scrutinising agency. The Court shall have the power to appoint any other scrutinising agency recognised by CARA depending upon the situation.

8. *Miscellaneous :*

It will be desirable for the Government of India to enter into bilateral agreement with countries which are receiving children from India for the purpose of adoption and such bilateral agreements should provide for full coordination between the appropriate authorities of India and the receiving State and also for protection and safeguarding of the Welfare of the children taken for adoption in the receiving State.

Child rape in the country

705. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is noticeable increase in the cases of child rape in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such cases take a long time in awarding punishment to the culprits;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some organisation of the country have demanded stringent and prompt actions against the culprits as well as against officers who try to hush up or delay such cases ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring a fresh bill conferring detriment punishment to those found guilty; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Suggestions for amendment in the laws, including stricter punishments for offences, have been made from time to time at different forums. The National Commission for Women (NCW) of Department of Women and Child Development is charged with the responsibility under the NCW Act, 1990 to review, from time to time, the adequacy of existing laws relating to women and to recommend amendments. The NCW had organised a Seminar on Child Rape in October, 1992. The Members of the NCW, representatives from voluntary organisations, eminent lawyers and activists had participated in the Workshop. The report of the Seminar is being further processed by NCW/Department of WCD of the Ministry of HRD.

Establishment of Minorities Financial Development Corporation

707. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1805 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1994 and state the progress made so far with regard to establishement of National Minorities Financial Development Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : In the address of the President to the Parliament on 21-2-94